

REMARKS

Claims 1-6, 9 and 11-20 are presently pending. Claims 1-6, 9 and 11-20 have been rejected. No claims have been allowed. Claims 1, 3-4, 9, 14 and 18 have been amended. Claims 2, 12-13 and 15-17 have been canceled. New claims 21-26 have been added.

I. Interview Summary

Examiner Diep is hereby acknowledged and thanked for the courtesy extended during the personal interview on September 24, 2007, at the United States Patent and Trademark Office, between the Examiner, Keith Moore, Craig Paulsen and the undersigned attorney. The pending claims, Office Action and prior art references of record, including Assayag and Walker, were all discussed during this personal interview, with particular focus on claims 1, 9, 12, 14, 16, 18 and 20, as well as that which is clearly taught by the prior art of record. Agreement was reached with respect to the prior art of record not appearing to teach all elements of the pending independent claims if these claims were amended in a particular manner, and appropriate amendments to these claims have been made herein accordingly.

In addition, it was proposed that analogous claims to a gaming system and a gaming machine particularly adapted to practice the claimed methods be added. It was agreed that such new analogous system and machine claims could be examined along with the presently amended method claims.

II. Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 9 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as being indefinite. Applicants have amended claim 9 accordingly and respectfully submit that the pending § 112 rejection has been obviated thereby.

III. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-6, 9 and 11-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0103138 to Assayag et al. (“Assayag”), in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2006/0223628 A1 to Walker et al. (“Walker”). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Nevertheless, Applicants have elected to amend claims herein so as to more clearly distinguish over the prior art of record. In particular, independent claims 1 and 18 have been amended to require that the claimed methods are conducted with respect to wager-based gaming machines, and that the determination of whether a security-related event has occurred involves the use of an automated polling signal and response thereto with respect to the subject wager-based gaming machine or machines. Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1 and 18, and thus all dependent claims therefrom, are clearly patentable over the prior art of record, and request the passage of these claims to allowance.

IV. New Claims

New claims 21-26 have been added. Claims 21-23 are directed to a security system adapted for use in a gaming environment, while claims 24-26 are directed to a wager-based gaming machine adapted for use in a security system for a gaming environment. Claims 21-26 are substantially analogous to the pending method claims, and further support for the various elements of these new claims can be found at, for example, paragraphs [0019]-[0020] and [0026] of the written description as filed. Applicants respectfully submit that new claims 21-26 are patentable over the prior art of record for at least the same reasons as those given for the analogous method claims, and thus request the passage of these claims to allowance as well.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that all claims are in proper form and condition for patentability, and thus request a Notification of Allowance to that effect. Consideration for a one-month extension of time fee and additional claim fees are being submitted herewith. Should such consideration be inadvertently omitted, and/or should any other fee be required for any reason related to this document, then the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such fee or fees to Deposit Account No. 50-0388, referencing Docket No. IGT1P097. If there are any questions or issues remaining, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully Submitted,
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